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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

2138 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6216

(202) 225-3951

<http://www.house.gov/judiciary>

May 21, 2003

JOHN CONYERS, JR., Michigan  
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The Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to request that the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary hold hearings into how the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's ("DHS") terrorism-fighting resources were co-opted for partisan political purposes.

As you may be aware, Democratic members of the Texas House recently left the State of Texas in the midst of a redistricting battle. It has been reported that state officials in Texas sought the assistance of DHS in tracking an airplane that some of the members used to leave the State but misled DHS into believing the plane was in trouble (attached for your review are letters to DHS about these events). If this actually occurred, it would have been a serious misuse of DHS's limited resources, which should be used for the exclusive purpose of detecting and preventing terrorist threats. Moreover, DHS's personnel and resources clearly were diverted from their primary mission, a diversion that compromised our national security.

I believe such an abuse of Federal resources falls squarely into the jurisdiction of our Committee, which has jurisdiction over the "subversive activities affecting the internal security of the United States" under House Rule X. We would look forward to working with you to schedule such a hearing as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member



Sheila Jackson Lee  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Immigration,  
Border Security, and Claims

Enclosures

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR., Wisconsin  
CHAIRMAN

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ROBERT WEXLER, Florida  
TAMMY BAILEWIN, Wisconsin  
ANTHONY D. WEINER, New York  
ADAM B. SCHIFF, California  
LINDA T. SANCHEZ, California

The Honorable Tom Davis  
Chairman  
Committee on Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
B-350-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515


Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member:

We are writing to request that the U.S. House Committee on Government Reform hold hearings into how the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's ("DHS") terrorism-fighting resources were co-opted for partisan political purposes.

As you may be aware, Democratic members of the Texas House recently left the State of Texas in the midst of a redistricting battle. It has been reported that state officials in Texas sought the assistance of DHS in tracking an airplane that some of the members used to leave the State but misled DHS into believing the plane was in trouble (attached for your review are letters to DHS about these events). If this actually occurred, it would have been a serious misuse of DHS's limited resources, which should be used for the exclusive purpose of detecting and preventing terrorist threats. Moreover, DHS's personnel and resources clearly were diverted from their primary mission, a diversion that compromised our national security.

I believe such an abuse of Federal resources falls into the jurisdiction of your Committee, which has jurisdiction over the efficiency and management of the Federal government under House Rule X. If you require further information, please feel free to contact either of us.

Sincerely,



John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member



Sheila Jackson Lee  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Immigration,  
Border Security, and Claims

Enclosures